

# House of Lords Report - Genomic Medicine - July 7th 2009

## A response from the NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre

The NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre (NGEDC) welcomes this comprehensive report which contains key recommendations for the future of genomic medicine within the NHS.

Central to many of the recommendations is the need to encourage health professionals to understand genetic concepts and apply them appropriately in patient care.

NGEDC will be pleased to work with other key organisations to provide the educational underpinning to 'establish a national programme of training in genomic medicine' as an extension of its current work.

The Centre welcomes the recommendations that professional bodies (such as GMC, PMETB, NMC), include genomic medicine in their requirements. In 2006, we produced learning outcomes in genetics (developed by talking to practitioners about their learning needs) which are already in use in medical schools and several specialty curricula. The learning outcomes are being updated this year to acknowledge the latest developments in the understanding of the genetics of common diseases and of pharmacogenetics.

The resources which NGEDC develops to support learning outcomes are based on clinical scenarios, and they have been widely praised. Indeed, the report '...commends the NGEDC for developing valuable resources'.

The report recommends that the Department of Health reviews the remit of NGEDC to establish whether it has the capacity to be "able to provide national leadership in training the general medical and nursing workforce in the practice of genomic medicine..." because of the scale of such a programme. NGEDC certainly has the educational experience to lead this and already had in place plans for a scoping exercise later this year to determine the concepts, detailed learning outcomes and supporting resources to support the understanding of common complex diseases, pharmacogenetics and the ordering of genetic tests. NGEDC will also develop "Training the Trainers" courses to support the teaching of these subjects, but it is not within the remit of NGEDC as currently agreed with the Department of Health to provide genetics education directly to health professionals.



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